

Disciplinarity

Disciplinarity: Given the interdisciplinary component embedded in many General Education course/seminar criteria, e.g., ISEM 101 and ISEM 301s, it is important to determine what a “discipline” entails. While academic disciplines are defined as branches of knowledge studied in an academic setting, acknowledged by associated academic journals, and practitioner memberships in learned professional societies, there are no formal criteria defining what constitutes a “discipline” per se. A general demarcation includes (based in part upon UI course offerings, State Board General Education Core, Humanities Councils) the following. It is noted that not all majors are included here and that disciplines necessarily cross-cut College designations.

Arts: creative writing, visual arts, performing arts-music-dance-theatre. (State Board includes Arts with the Humanities).

Humanities: cultural anthropology*(Humanities Councils include; not on State Board), history* (Humanities Councils include; not on State Board), languages and linguistics* (as either humanities or social science), literature, philosophy; and the humanities include the reflection and theory in creative writing, in the performing arts of music, dance and theatre, and the reflection and theory in the visual arts of painting, sculpting and architecture. (State Board includes Arts with Humanities)

Behavioral and Social Sciences: anthropology-physical anthropology- archaeology, American studies, Latin American studies, Native American Studies, economics, geography, history* (State Board includes), linguistics* (as either humanities or social science), political science, psychology, public administration*(as either social science or professional discipline), sociology.

Natural Sciences: earth sciences-geology, life sciences-biology, chemistry, physics. (State Board includes physical geography)

Formal Sciences: computer sciences, mathematics, statistics systems science. (State Board limits to College Algebra, Calculus, Finite Math and Statistics)

Applied Sciences: agriculture-agricultural business-agricultural economics-BAE-clothing and textiles-design-environmental horticulture-early childhood education- family life-nutrition-insects and society-plant biotechnology-sustainable cropping systems, engineering-BAE-civil-chemical-computer-electrical-mechanical, environmental studies, natural resources-forest resources-products-rangeland-fire sciences-recreation and tourism, family and consumer sciences, health sciences, human physical performance, military science, veterinary science.

Professional Disciplines: architecture and design-landscape architecture, business-accounting-finance-operations management, education, journalism-mass media-communications, public administration* (as social science or professional discipline).

At the University of Idaho, **seven distinct disciplines** can thus be identified and applied to the General Education course criteria.

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